

# middle church

JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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NOVEMBER 1, 2020 • 11:45 AM • ALL SAINT'S DAY

• GATHERING •

### INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Natalie Perkins

### HYMN

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

(Isaac Watts; William Croft)

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream  
fades at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while troubles last,  
and our eternal home!

• REFLECTING •

**MIDDLE IN TWO MINUTES**

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER**

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

Ever-loving and holy God, hallowed be your name. Your reign come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the reign, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL AMEN**

John Del Cueto

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Middle Creative Writers

**ANTHEM**

"Strong God"

(Kirk Franklin)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir • Ivan Anderson, soloist

**SCRIPTURE**

Psalms 107.1–7, 17–19

Gary Vizioli

**SERMON**

"Vote for Love: God's Economy"

Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

**COMMUNION**

Jacqui Lewis and John Janka

Gather for yourself and your household something to eat and something to drink. It can be bread and wine; crackers and grape juice; pancakes and coffee; French toast and mimosas; a piece of fruit and water. Everyone can participate, from the youngest to the oldest.

You will be invited to consecrate those ordinary elements with prayer, and the words of institution. And then we will eat together and drink together, communing with each other and with the Living God. You are welcome, just as you are, to participate in this special ritual of Grace and Love.

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Kim Irwin

**OFFERTORY** "What If God Is Unhappy?"

(C. Marshall, C. Brinson, W. Johnson)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](https://middlechurch.org/donate) or Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch  
or Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666



## DEDICATION PRAYER

Marlene Fox

### HYMN

“Guide My Feet” (Trad. Spiritual; arr. Dionne McClain-Freeney, John Del Cueto)  
Jessica Baen, Wesley Rowell, Tina Owens, Matthew Ackerman, leaders

Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race, Lord  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand while I run this race ...

Stand by me while I run this race ...

I'm your child while I run this race ...

Search my heart while I run this race ...

Guide my feet while I run this race ...

### BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

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**PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • For all credits, visit [YouTube.com/MiddleChurch](https://www.youtube.com/MiddleChurch).**

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### THIS WEEK: VOTE FOR LOVE—GOD'S ECONOMY

- What's your testimony of God protecting you from enemies, of God gathering you when you were lost? What's your testimony of God leading you to safe places to flourish, of God satisfying your hunger and thirst?
- If we are the body of the living God, running God's household for God, how do we live our lives of faith in these days?
- What's love got to do with it?

### LAST WEEK: VOTE FOR LOVE—WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

- Which of your neighbors needs fair judgement?
- Which of your neighbors need to be rebuked frankly?
- Which of your neighbors need you forgive them, drop your grudge against them, and love them as you love yourself?

**PRAYER CORNER** *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*

**We are praying for all our Middle family every day.** Amanda R and her family; Alicia Swain, Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Victoria Dillard, The Callans, Raider Nation, Los Angeles Dodgers.

**To make a prayer request,** request a call from a Middle pastor, or inquire about financial assistance, visit [middlechurch.org/prayer](https://middlechurch.org/prayer).

# Welcome to Middle Church

**We are glad you are worshipping with us today.** If you are visiting for the first time, we invite you to return often and make Middle Church a home for you, your family, and friends. Sign up for updates or weekly emails at [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org).

**VIDEOS AND PODCASTS** — Worship music and sermon videos: [youtube.com/MiddleChurch](https://youtube.com/MiddleChurch).  
Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: [facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch).  
Middle Church Celebrations podcast: [middlechurch.org/podcasts](https://middlechurch.org/podcasts).

**DEAR MIDDLE FAMILY**— Fiscal Year 2021 is in full swing! Even in this time of uncertainty, we hope that you are encouraged that our community can band together and do amazing things! This year will be no different. With our annual programming, and newly created **Middle Collegiate Church Cancel Rent/Mortgage Program** and **Black Lives Matter Fund**, we are ready and excited to meet the needs of our community.

**Our current budget requires \$900,000 in congregational giving** by June 30, 2021 in order to fund our ministries and programs. We have no doubt that we can do this, but only with your help! **As of this printing, we have raised \$386,154.06** (\$218,001.79 actuals; \$168,152.27 recurring commitments). That puts us at **43%** of our June 30th goal of \$900,000!

**We are THRILLED to share that a donor has made a \$50,000 pledge match to Middle Church, if we—the congregation— can match it in new cash and pledges by December 2020.** Simply put, we need to raise \$50,000 of our annual goal in NEW recurring donations and pledges by **December 1, 2020** in order to receive this wonderful gift! This year's offering is critical to our vision and ministry. Can we count on you to make a pledge today? A weekly pledge of \$25 becomes an offering of \$1,200 for the year! No gift is too small. **Please make your donation online at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate) or through Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch or by texting [Amount] to 917-924-4666.**

Middle family, we are so grateful to you for your love and generous spirit. It is because of you that we can make change that heals souls and the world. We know that this year has posed unbelievable stress for many, and we're here for you if you need help.

—In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren, and Middle Consistory.      Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate).



**RECEIVE COMMUNION AT MIDDLE**

**TODAY!**

The first Sunday each month, join us and receive communion on the steps: **1:00 - 2:00 p.m.\***

\*canceled in the event of rain

We are committed to offering communion in a way that protects the safety of everyone involved.

# Middle Virtual Gatherings

All events are listed in ET. Visit [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org) for details and the latest updates.

**Registration for all programming ends 1 hour before the event begins, so be sure to RSVP!**

**EVERY DAY: Prayer Phone**—Call 212-477-0666 and press 4 for English or press 5 for Spanish to hear a weekly prayer, scripture, and reflection from a Middle pastor. Updated Mondays, 8:30 a.m.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids' Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Middle Out Loud](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Communion on the Steps](#)
- 6:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party and Middle Mixer](#)

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- 12:00 p.m.: [Hablamos Pre-Election Prayer Vigil](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

**Election Day —Staff Holiday  
No Programming—Please Vote!**

- 8:00 p.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Grief Gathering](#)

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids' Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Middle YOUTH](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Dinner Party](#)



Nov. 5, 12, 19  
7:00 - 8:30 PM ET

There is so much to mourn right now. Whether you lost someone close to you, or are just grieving the state of our world—you don't need to carry this weight alone.

## Grief Gatherings

RSVP: [bit.ly/midlegrief](http://bit.ly/midlegrief)

middle  church  
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# New 2020 Fall Programs

CLICK  
HERE

## MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your intended meeting.
- Upon entering, confirm that you are in the right meeting.
- Please change your display name. Enter your Full Name, pronouns, and your city. i.e. "Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft (she/her, NYC)"
- Upon entering the meeting, please hit video, as we'd love to see you.
- Also, hit mute to avoid any audio issues. Unmute yourself when you'd like to weigh in on the conversation.
- Sometimes, the host of the meeting will mute and unmute everyone as the meeting requires.
- If you have a question related to the conversation but would prefer to just type it in, there is a "Chat" section on the Zoom video where you can type in a question. We'll be checking that chat box often to ensure we address all member comments before the meeting ends.
- Zoom participants will adhere to demonstrating Revolutionary Love at all times. If a participant's behavior is deemed inappropriate by the meeting host, they will be removed. Inappropriate behavior includes but is not limited to: harassment, threats, bigotry of any kind, and not identifying themselves.
- For additional troubleshooting, see the sidebar.
- We are thrilled you are here and look forward to a wonderful time together.

### TROUBLESHOOTING FAQ

Having trouble with the livestream or Zoom call? Try one (or all) of these tricks to see if it fixes the problem.



REFRESH THE PAGE



CHANGE THE VIDEO  
QUALITY IN THE  
VIDEO SETTINGS



PAUSE THE STREAM  
AND WATCH ON  
A DELAY

And, make sure you've powered down your device recently!  
As Anne Lamott says, "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FROM OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- [AA Meetings can be found here](#).
- **Downtown Meditation** offers online [Wednesday Dharma Talk and Sitting at 7:00 pm](#)

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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH IS ON LENAPE LAND ON TURTLE ISLAND.

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### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

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Middle Collegiate Church is a multicultural, multiethnic, intergenerational movement of Spirit and justice, powered by Revolutionary Love, with room for all. Following in the Way of Jesus' radical love, and inspired by the prophets, Middle Church is called by God to do a bold new thing on the earth. We aim to heal the soul and the world by dismantling racist, classist, sexist, xenophobic, and homophobic systems of oppression.

Because our God is still speaking in many languages, we work in inter-religious partnerships to uproot injustice, eradicate poverty, care for the brokenhearted, and build the Reign of God on earth. This activism is fueled by our faith; our faith is expressed in art; our art is an active prayer connecting us with the Holy Spirit. Middle Church affirms the transformative power of moral imagination, reclaiming and reframing Christianity inside our walls, on the street, and in virtual spaces around the globe.

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### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – *Senior Minister in Charge*

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Exec. Minister for Congregational Life, Care, & Movement Building*

Rev. Marlene Fox – *Exec. Minister for Operations, Stewardship, & Finance*

Rev. Benjamin Perry – *Minister for Outreach and Media Strategy*

Natalie Perkins – *Director of Digital Ministry*

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[YouTube.com/MiddleChurch](https://YouTube.com/MiddleChurch)

[Instagram.com/middlechurch](https://Instagram.com/middlechurch)

[Instagram.com/revjacquilewis](https://Instagram.com/revjacquilewis)

[Twitter.com/middlechurch](https://Twitter.com/middlechurch)

[Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis](https://Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis)

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### CONSISTORY

#### ELDERS

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.

Ivan Anderson

Vickie Burns

Pete Grenfell

Darren Johnston CHAIR

Gerald Lazore

Hadaryah Morgan

Claudia Slacik

Shanta Thake

Tom Smucker INTERSECTIONS

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